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GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINT COMMITTEE TO  
VISIT HOSPITAL FOR INSANE AT  
MT. PLEASANT  
REPORT

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*Iowa. General Assembly. Joint Committee to  
Visit Hospital for Insane at Mt. Pleasant*  
**REPORT**

OF THE

# JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

LOCATED AT

Mt. PLEASANT.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Twenty-third General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Your Joint Committee appointed to visit the Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant and examine into its management, beg leave to submit the following report:

Your Committee met at the Hospital on the morning of February 25, 1890, and organized by electing a Chairman and Secretary, and then proceeded to the examination of the institution in accordance with your joint resolution.

We began our investigation by first going through the different wards of the Hospital, carefully inspecting the sanitary condition of the same, the general appearance of the inmates, their clothing, character and quality of food, drinking water, ventilation, sunlight, temperature of the wards, etc., all of which were eminently satisfactory.

The inmates seemed to be contented and satisfied, with few exceptions, and in cases of dissatisfaction or discontent, we found upon investigation, that it was owing to the condition of the patient, rather than to any mismanagement on the part of the Superintendent or attendants in the Hospital. The patients seemed to be well nourished, and were cleanly in appearance.

We next proceeded to the examination of the new kitchen and ironing rooms, the arrangement of which seemed to your Committee to be all that could be desired, affording ample room for the preparation of the vast amount of food necessary for the inmates of the institution, also for the ironing, handling and preparation of the clothing.

We also examined with great care the new boiler house, which is situated about 1,000 feet distant from the main Hospital Building. We found it apparently well built, with good stone foundation and superstructure of hard brick, corrugated iron roof and iron

ceiling over boiler and engine rooms. The five new boilers are in position, and, so far as your Committee could judge, are doing excellent work.

Your Committee also examined the new Industrial Building. This building is seventy-five by fifty feet and two stories high, with connecting corridor of brick to west wing, thirty feet in length. This building seems to be well built, upon good stone foundation, and of good hard brick superstructure, finished inside with southern pine, and well painted.

The purchase of the additional 240 acres of land has enabled the Superintendent to increase his herd of milch cows to about 125, thus furnishing for the use of the Hospital an abundant supply of good fresh milk, also grass, hay, oats and corn sufficient to feed all the stock on the Hospital farm.

Your Committee find that the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended; that they were expended for the purposes for which they were appropriated; that chapter 67, acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly has been complied with, in not contracting indebtedness in excess of appropriations; that there has been no diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

The names and number of persons employed in the institution, the salaries received, etc., will be found appended to this report and marked exhibit "A."

Your Committee carefully inspected the means of escape in case of fire, which consists of stairways leading from the ends of each section of each wing, also stairways leading to the rotunda of central building.

The appliances for extinguishing fire are steam pumps, with pipe and hose attachments in each ward and on each floor of central building, also hand grenades on each floor of rotunda. Other safeguards are iron doors between sections of the hospital, and a thorough system of thermostats, an electric fire alarm in use here which works admirably.

Your Committee found the general management and administration of the Hospital eminently satisfactory, headed by Dr. Gilman, the Superintendent, with an able, industrious corps of assistants.

Your Committee has carefully examined and closely scrutinized each item for the several appropriations for improvements and repairs recommended by the Trustees and Superintendent of the Hospital and emphasized by the State Visiting Committee, and we feel confident that nothing has been requested that is not absolutely

necessary for the economical administration of the institution in all of its extensive and varied operations, and for the scientific and humane care of its 800 patients; we therefore most earnestly recommend that the several appropriations be granted. They are as follows, and with the enumeration we state briefly our reasons for such recommendation, as discovered by us upon the occasion of our visit:

FOR AMUSEMENT HALL AND CHAPEL, \$15,000.

The only auditorium connected with the Institution is a small room which was constructed when the capacity of the Hospital was less than one-half the number it now accommodates, and will comfortably seat about 150. The number of patients is about 800, and with their necessary attendants increases the maximum to 900 persons, who should have an opportunity to enjoy the benefits derived from the various exercises held here almost daily. With a reduction of 200 for any who may not be able to attend on account of their condition (which we are informed is a large margin), there would then be the need of seating capacity in Amusement Hall and Chapel for 700, and, to accommodate all who might be present at any one time, it should be 800. For several years, we understand, the appropriation for this improvement, which to us seems most important, has been requested of the legislatures when assembled, but has been deferred and delayed, on account of the State debt and other demands. From observation while there, of the effects of such diversions as are arranged for the benefit of the patients, and from the universal testimony of those alienists who have spent their lives in this work, we believe this to be a most important adjunct to the means of cure in such hospitals. The natural religious feeling still exists in the minds of a large number of patients who are in the Hospital for treatment, many of them being obliged to remain for years, and they think it a great hardship to be deprived of religious services; yet a large proportion of them must be, unless this appropriation is made. To those who have not the same religious interest or desire, it is a diversion and greatly relieves the monotony of their lives. The various diversions are concerts, dramatic entertainments, dances, lectures with stereopticon illustrations, etc., etc.

For the Amusement Hall it will be necessary to have a large stage, with all the necessary appliances, curtains, wings, scenery, lights, etc., and the old walls inside must be torn out for two

stories, also the floors and ceilings. It will also, at the extreme south end, be necessary to build, for twenty-five feet, the outside walls forty feet high, then the inside must all be finished.

For the Chapel, of course, the same must be done, as it is in the same building, and with the furniture here, is desired a good organ, which is a great accessory in such a place. In looking over the large number of unfortunate persons who find shelter in this Hospital, and with the fact before us that, for all future time, 800 such persons must be constantly treated here, your Committee most heartily indorse this improvement.

The Superintendent with the aid of competent architects, has made a careful estimate of the cost, and we recommend the amount requested.

FOR REFRIGERATING BUILDING FOR COLD STORAGE, \$7,000.

One of the most urgent demands and pressing needs of this Hospital for several years has been a cold storage building for the preservation of the large amount of perishable supplies required annually for the nearly 1,000 people there domiciled. Every year great loss is entailed in butter, meat and other perishable articles, from no provision having been made for all such supplies, also from the fact that they cannot purchase a sufficient amount to last through the year at such time as they can be procured at lowest prices and of best quality. There is no place where the large supply of butter, eggs, meat, apples and other fruit, fish, etc., required for the Hospital, can be safely stored. At least 25,000 pounds of butter is required per annum, which should be purchased in the season when best, and in sufficient quantity for the year's supply, at such time it can also be procured most economically. The temperature in the refrigerator will stand at about 36 degrees Fahrenheit, and thus the butter will keep indefinitely in a perfectly sweet condition. The other articles required, and above enumerated, should be served in the same manner. Sane people, who are not more than ordinarily nervous and irritable, do not view with pleasure the serving of strong butter, tainted meat or spoiled eggs, and certainly the class of diseased and nervous people cared for there, consider themselves greatly imposed upon; yet the management is absolutely powerless to prevent occasional occurrences of this kind until supplied with this refrigerating building. The plans and estimates for this structure have been carefully prepared by the Superintendent. We consider this one of the most important

adjuncts to this Hospital, to aid in the proper dietary care of the patients. We recommend the amount asked, and believe it to be one of the most economical measures presented by the management.

FOR ICE HOUSE, \$3,000.

The amount of ice annually needed by the Hospital is about 1,000 tons. There is practically no storage room for it, nothing but an old temporary shed, put up last year, being in existence. There should be a sufficient capacity for a two years' supply, so that, as has been the case this year, they need not pay two or three times the price for the necessary amount, as during years when ice is plentiful. They have a lake on the premises, now supplied with water from springs, and the cost of putting up ice will be nominal, as it can be done with the men and teams ordinarily employed there. Ice is a very important agent, medicinally, in this class of diseases, as well as for the extensive domestic operations of the institution, and there should never be a lack of it. Your Committee has examined the plans, specifications and estimates submitted by the Superintendent, and would recommend the amount asked by the Trustees for this purpose.

FOR REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS AND CONTINGENT FUND, \$5,000 PER ANNUM.

As has been the case for four years past, the amount recommended two years ago for necessary repairs of this extensive plant was reduced, so that it has been impossible to do much necessary work, in order to keep the property of the State here from deterioration, and we consider it a very unwise policy to leave undone necessary repairs, which results in more extensive and expensive outlays. We believe the true policy of the State to adopt is, to keep up the repairs of the Hospital so that there shall be no decay, and consequent loss, or large appropriations for such purpose required in the future. This can be accomplished by the appropriation of \$5,000 per annum, and experience has shown that a less sum is insufficient. Your Committee would recommend that amount.

FOR SLAUGHTER HOUSE AND PIGGERY, \$2,500.

The growth of this Hospital in numbers, has increased the necessity for the above purposes, and on a more extensive scale

than required before. The slaughter house is but a poor excuse for such purposes, and is so situated as to be a great nuisance to the wards of the Hospital in all the butchering and rendering operations, and, as a sanitary measure, we would recommend this appropriation. There is absolutely no shelter for the three or four hundred swine annually raised and fed here, and these buildings could be most economically and conveniently arranged on a branch of a creek, a sufficient distance from the Hospital to remove all danger from the effluvia emanating therefrom which is deleterious to health, and at the same time provide ample shelter for the swine. For a building of sufficient capacity for both purposes, we believe the amount asked by the Trustees and Superintendent not too large.

FOR PATIENTS' CONSERVATORY, \$2,500.

There are a large number of fine plants and some rare exotics, which have been procured by donation and otherwise, an accumulation of years. These have been placed in a small, low building, attached to one of the wings and extending under the ward. The wood work and sash is decayed, and the foundation disintegrated, so that it is liable to fall down at any time. A portion of this room is under the ward, and the vegetable growth in close proximity to sleeping apartments of patients, so that there is danger of malaria in this section of the wing, and it is, consequently, not a proper place to rebuild the old structure. Your Committee has examined very carefully this building and contents, and noted the importance of saving these valuable plants to the State, as well as observed the importance of such a place for the diversion of the patients, especially in the winter season, when all outside is dreary and depressing. It becomes a veritable oasis to these unfortunate people, and serves to attract their mental operations from their own troubles as much as anything connected with the Hospital. This must all be dispensed with, and the valuable palms, cacti, banana, orange, lemon, fig and many other trees and plants, together with roses, heliotropes, pinks and geraniums of various and rare shades, will be destroyed for want of protection, unless this appropriation is made by this General Assembly. With these facts before us, we most earnestly recommend this much needed improvement. The amount requested by the Trustees is not more than will be required for the large number of plants there gathered and the space required for the patients to circulate among them.

## FOR STEAM ENGINE, \$2,600.

The only engine in use at this Hospital was placed there nearly thirty years ago, and was in the old engine room fourteen years ago when that structure was burned. It is much out of repair, and liable to become completely useless, leaving idle all the machinery in operation here, which must be in motion daily to perform the necessary work. It is not of sufficient power when running, to perform the work required. We would, in the interest of economy and good management, recommend that an engine of sufficient capacity be procured, and that the old one be then overhauled and placed in such repair as possible, to use as a "lay off" in case of any accident to the other machine. The amount asked is the exact amount required for engine, with only fifty dollars added for setting it in position.

## FOR IMPROVEMENT OF GROUNDS AND FENCES, \$1,000 PER ANNUM.

The construction of the new wings has caused the fences to airing courts in the rear of the wards to be removed and disarranged, and they should be replaced at once, together with other fences which are decayed and constantly being blown down, and the grounds should be graded where changes have been made by new buildings, and walks should be laid out in front through the grounds, for the female patients. Your Committee recommend the small sum asked per annum for this purpose.

## FOR REPAIRING RESERVOIR, \$3,000.

The present reservoir in front of the Hospital was constructed many years ago. It has leaked considerably for several years, and the amount thus lost is increasing. As the Hospital secures its supply of water from the Mt. Pleasant Water Company, and pays by the thousand gallons, as measured before passing into this reservoir, it is important, as an economical measure, that these repairs be made. It will not only be necessary to remove the stone lining now displaced by frost, but puddle the embankment from the bottom to the top thoroughly, to make a permanent improvement. Your Committee believes that this should be done within the next biennial period, and that the amount asked is not excessive.

## FOR FIRE PIPE, HOSE AND HOSE CARTS, \$5,000.

It is an absolute necessity for fire protection of this large insti

tution, with its thousand helpless inmates, that a line of fire pipe be laid around the entire plant, with fire plugs for hose attachment, and hose, with necessary hose carts; and the hose inside the building, which has become rotten, should be renewed. Your Committee believe the entire amount asked for these purposes should be appropriated, in the interest of safety to the inmates. This is a demand that requires no argument to make plain its importance.

## OFFICERS AND EMPLOYES.

*Names, compensation and kind of service of the employees in the Iowa Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, June 30, 1889.*

OCCUPATION.	NAME.	SALARIES.
Superintendent	H. A. Gilman	\$ 291.67 per month.
First assistant physician	M. E. Witte	116.67 per month.
Second assistant physician	F. P. Peck	91.67 per month.
Third assistant physician	P. F. Straub	75.00 per month.
Steward	E. N. Nelson	83.33 per month.
Matron	F. V. Cole	50.00 per month.
Apothecary	L. W. Harding	25.00 per month.
Clerk	Flora Chalfant	35.00 per month.
Stenographer	Julia Miller	30.00 per month.
Supervisor	Wm. Whittaker	35.00 per month.
Supervisor, assistant	E. H. House	26.00 per month.
Attendant	A. W. Franks	26.00 per month.
Attendant	M. Weaver	26.00 per month.
Attendant	P. Brady	25.00 per month.
Attendant	Geo. W. Voorheis	25.00 per month.
Attendant	Thos. Heckert	25.00 per month.
Attendant	F. H. Given	25.00 per month.
Attendant	Geo. McFadden	25.00 per month.
Attendant	L. Winters	25.00 per month.
Attendant	A. L. Davis	25.00 per month.
Attendant	Jno. Bunis	24.00 per month.
Attendant	T. Maxwell	24.00 per month.
Attendant	F. H. McCray	24.00 per month.
Attendant	J. Cloughly	25.00 per month.
Attendant	A. W. Faulkner	24.00 per month.
Attendant	P. Eastberg	24.00 per month.
Attendant	W. F. Burnett	24.00 per month.
Attendant	J. A. Anderson	25.00 per month.
Attendant	D. C. Hankins	25.00 per month.
Attendant	Geo. Hooper	24.00 per month.
Attendant	N. Stubbs	24.00 per month.
Attendant	J. R. Hooper	20.00 per month.
Attendant	R. Maxwell	24.00 per month.
Attendant	I. J. Tomy	20.00 per month.
Attendant	R. Monroe	25.00 per month.
Attendant	C. L. Spray	25.00 per month.
Attendant	L. V. Banta	24.00 per month.
Attendant	S. H. Anderson	30.00 per month.
Attendant	D. O. Woodson	27.00 per month.
Attendant	Carrie Bogart	30.00 per month.
Attendant	Mattie Gent	30.00 per month.
Attendant	B. Whelan	30.00 per month.
Attendant	Minnie Bartlett	19.00 per month.
Attendant	Kate Sidelotham	17.00 per month.
Attendant	May Boston	18.00 per month.
Attendant	Kate Fischer	23.00 per month.
Attendant	Esther Kavanaugh	16.00 per month.
Attendant	Maggie Hardin	17.00 per month.
Attendant	Bridget Donahue	15.00 per month.
Attendant	Ella Culligan	16.00 per month.
Attendant	Anna Winthers	17.00 per month.
Attendant	Ella Fitzgerald	17.00 per month.
Attendant	Maggie McDonald	15.00 per month.

## OFFICERS AND EMPLOYES—CONTINUED.

OCCUPATION.	NAME.	SALARY.
Attendant.....	Nellie Daniels.....	21.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Lizzie Shipley.....	17.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Frank Anderson.....	18.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Bertha Oleson.....	20.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Mattie Wright.....	19.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Julia Smith.....	23.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Ida Howell.....	20.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Minnie Jarvis.....	17.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Bena Bogart.....	15.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Ella Short.....	19.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Mattie Foster.....	15.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Jettie Ford.....	16.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Carrie Pidgeon.....	15.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Frankie Cochrane.....	17.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Maria Anderson.....	15.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Emma Mathews.....	16.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Maria Madsen.....	15.00 per month.
Attendant.....	Laura Carlson.....	16.00 per month.
Cook .....	Edith M. Cole.....	15.00 per month.
Cook, assistant.....	Sophia Fagerstrom.....	25.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Mary Hartnett.....	15.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	H. Klone.....	11.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Alice F. Chapman.....	11.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Minnie Gustafson.....	11.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Eva Riggs.....	11.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Low Magdelran.....	11.00 per month.
Carman.....	R. Gustafson.....	25.00 per month.
Kitchen boy.....	Chas. Carlson.....	20.00 per month.
Kitchen boy.....	Frank Crane.....	18.00 per month.
Kitchen boy.....	Jno. Clawson.....	18.00 per month.
Waiter girl.....	Lizzie Inseore.....	11.00 per month.
Waiter girl.....	Lizzie Short.....	11.00 per month.
Baker.....	F. G. Ackerman.....	45.00 per month.
Washer-woman.....	Otto Nest.....	24.00 per month.
Washer-woman.....	Belle Raphs.....	16.00 per month.
Washer-woman.....	Jennie Blythe.....	11.00 per month.
Washer-woman.....	Eva Blythe.....	11.00 per month.
Washer-woman.....	Lillie Carlson.....	11.00 per month.
Cook .....	Anna Gustafson.....	18.00 per month.
Cook, assistant.....	Carrie Mitchell.....	13.00 per month.
Chambermaid.....	Phebe Stanley.....	11.00 per month.
Chambermaid.....	Mary Waible.....	11.00 per month.
Chambermaid.....	Mary Burns.....	11.00 per month.
Ironer.....	Anna Casey.....	12.00 per month.
Ironer.....	May Harding.....	11.00 per month.
Ironer.....	Mary Aekerman.....	10.00 per month.
Ironer.....	Mary Casey.....	10.00 per month.
Ironer.....	May Morse.....	10.00 per month.
Seamstress.....	Mary Maroney.....	20.00 per month.
Seamstress.....	Kate Maroney.....	16.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Mary O'Connor.....	11.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Julia O'Hearn.....	11.00 per month.
Porter.....	Gust. Fredriekson.....	22.00 per month.
Laborer.....	Calvin Short.....	20.00 per month.
Kitchen girl.....	Mrs. C. Short.....	15.00 per month.
Farmer.....	R. H. Stearns.....	40.00 per month.
Gardener.....	S. Heubbaugh.....	35.00 per month.
Butcher.....	H. R. Rouse.....	50.00 per month.
Florist.....	S. B. Sidelotham.....	50.00 per month.
Milk boy.....	C. Rouse.....	18.00 per month.
Milk boy.....	W. Hunter.....	18.00 per month.
Teamster.....	Wm. Baldwin.....	20.00 per month.
Teamster.....	Jno. Peterson.....	20.00 per month.
Teamster.....	B. Keegan.....	20.00 per month.
Teamster.....	F. Muldowney.....	20.00 per month.
Teamster.....	Jno. McLaughlin.....	25.00 per month.
Laborer.....	Ed. Anderson.....	24.00 per month.
Laborer.....	L. H. Fenton.....	1.50 per day.
Teamster.....	Ed. Hall.....	18.00 per month.
Teamster.....	A. Leneis.....	18.00 per month.

## OFFICERS AND EMPLOYES—CONTINUED.

OCCUPATION.	NAME.	SALARY.
Engineer.....	Jno. Hart.....	60.00 per month.
Engineer, assistant.....	A. E. Hopkins.....	50.00 per month.
Fireman.....	W. O'Connell.....	30.00 per month.
Fireman.....	M. Robertson.....	30.00 per month.
Carpenter.....	N. Shriner.....	2.50 per day.
Painter.....	James Wilson.....	2.25 per day.

All the above employes require, in addition to their wages, board, washing, fuel and lights; but no other remuneration.

T. J. CALDWELL,  
L. A. MITCHELL,  
JOSIAH T. YOUNG.







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